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### ***Kernan Announces Grants to Train 377 Workers at Four Southwestern Indiana Companies***

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today that four southwestern Indiana companies have been awarded more than \$119,300 in training grants from the Indiana Department of Commerce's Skills Enhancement Fund.

"We are proud to partner with companies that are dedicated to improving the skills of their workforce," said Kernan, who leads the state's economic development efforts as director of Commerce. "By offering the training necessary to get ahead as well as upgrading equipment and infrastructure, these businesses will remain competitive for years to come."

- **Alcoa Power Generating Inc.**, Newburgh, has been awarded a \$23,000 grant to train 71 incumbent employees as part of a \$38 million capital investment in equipment upgrades. Alcoa Power Generating operates as a supplier of power and utilities to Alcoa Warrick Operations and serves as a wholesale merchant. Other services the company supplies are smelter steam, high temperature water and potable water. Alcoa Power Generating will use the grant to train employees in advanced boiler operation, on-the-job training, computer skills, electrical control circuits and pneumatics.
- **Indiana Tube Corp. (ITC)**, Evansville, has been awarded an \$8,300 grant to train 20 existing and six new employees following a \$10.1 million investment in new equipment and building upgrades. ITC is a subsidiary of Handy & Harman and has been in business for 27 years. The company is the world's leading producer of refrigerator and freezer condensers and is the largest supplier to the United States market. ITC will use the Commerce grant to train employees in lean manufacturing, quick change techniques and error proofing.

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- **Rexam Medical Packaging**, Evansville, has been awarded an \$82,800 grant to train 43 new workers and 221 existing associates following a company investment of \$8 million in equipment upgrades. Rexam was founded as Sunbeam Plastics in 1953 with original products of plastic wall tile and toy components. Today, the company is a manufacturer of proprietary and custom plastic closures and containers. Rexam will use the grant to train employees in wiring, computer skills, hydraulics, welding and lean manufacturing.
- **Silgan Closures, LLC**, Evansville, has been awarded a \$5,200 grant to train 10 new and six current employees following the company's \$3 million investment in equipment. Founded in 1987, Silgan Closures has grown to be one of the largest consumer goods packaging companies in the United States. The company's primary lines are metal food containers and plastic containers. Silgan will use the Commerce grant to train employees in press operation and maintenance.

The Commerce department awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and current employees in basic work skills and company-specific skills necessary to support the project. Companies interested in learning more about the Skills Enhancement Fund or other Commerce programs should contact the Economic Development Division at 800.463.8081, or visit the Web site at [www.indianacommerce.com](http://www.indianacommerce.com).

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